



***ePaveldas*: Roman Catholic Records Online**

Lithuania “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

April 2022

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to identify and use the website *ePaveldas* to locate online Lithuanian Roman Catholic records.

INTRODUCTION

ePaveldas is an online Lithuanian library and archive that has digitized many of the parish records of the Roman Catholic Church in Lithuania. They are continuously updating their website and adding more digitized parish records. For this guide to be of use to you, you will already need to know the name of the town where the Roman Catholic parish is located that you would like to search for. For help locating the parish, refer to the Lithuanian parish mapping site found at:

<https://gengen.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=feb35d29fa9f4582a71d728c77ef286e>. For brief instructions on how to use the site, please see the [FamilySearch Wiki Lithuania Church Records](#) article.

You may want to consult the following “How to” Guides before continuing:

- [The Russian Alphabet](#)
- [Deciphering the Handwriting and Understanding the Grammar](#)
- [Inserting Special Characters](#)

HOW TO

Steps:

1. Find out how the name your parish is spelled in *ePaveldas*.

To do this, you will need to understand a few Lithuanian grammar rules. The spelling of words changes depending on where they are located in a sentence. For instance, the name of a town will be spelled in the nominative case. However, the church books will be listed by the town’s name in the genitive case or the possessive case (think church books **of** Kaunas). Therefore, most towns listed on the website will end with one of the following genitive forms:

Nominative	Genitive	Example: Nominative	Example: Genitive
-as, -is, -ys	-o	Kaunas	Kauno
-a, -i, -ė	-os, -ės	Kelmė Rudamina	Kelmės Rudaminos
-ai	-ų	Židikai	Židikių

- a. If the town where your parish is located does not follow the above changes, or you are unsure of the spelling of the town, go to <https://paneveziokrastas.pavb.lt/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Romos-katalik%C5%B3-ba%C5%BEny%C4%8Di%C5%B3-kuri%C5%B3-skaitmenintos-metrik%C5%B3-akt%C5%B3-knygos-paskelbtos-portale-www.epaveldas.lt-s%C4%85ra%C5%A1as.pdf>. This PDF file is a list of all records for parishes currently available on *ePaveldas*, including the years the records are available (see column three on the PDF). Scroll through the alphabetical list to find the town name in genitive form using the chart above.
2. Perform a search at *ePaveldas* to see if the church records are available.
 - a. Go to <http://www.epaveldas.lt/>
 - b. If the website is in Lithuanian, in the upper right corner of the website click “EN” to go to the English version. If you see “LT”, the website has defaulted to the English version.
 - c. On the top left side of the screen, click “Search”.
In the search box, type in the name of your parish in the genitive form. Since the beginning of the parish name is the same (for example, Židikai vs. Židikių), the genitive form may appear in a drop-down menu as you type. **Note: you must use diacritics.** Make sure the full name of the parish is entered in genitive form and add “RKB” (ex: Židikių RKB). Entries with “RKB” after the name of the town indicate Roman Catholic Church records.
 - d. Click on the blue magnifying glass button to search.

This will bring you to a page of results with the name of your parish, the letters “RKB”, some Lithuanian words, and a date range. The following chart will help you identify the type of church book available on *ePaveldas*:

Lithuanian	English
gimimo metrikų knyga	birth metrical book
santuokos metrikų knyga	marriage metrical book
mirties metrikų knyga	death metrical book

3. Identify the church book that contains the record type and year span you would like to search.
4. Click either the title of the collection, the picture of the book to the right, or the link underneath the title of the book that says, “view”.

This will open the digital folder of the records for the parish, type, and year range you have chosen. Researching these parish records requires you to go page by page

searching by date or name. There is not a computerized searchable index, although some parishes include handwritten indexes, which are usually found at the back of the book. There are different options for viewing the images, including zooming in and out, rotating the image, and enlarging the image to full screen. You can use the left and right arrows to go from page to page or type in an image number in the box found on the bottom right side of the screen.

Reading the Records

The records will be written in Russian after 1868; before 1868, they may be in various languages depending on the locality and the time period. Be prepared to look through records in Latin, Russian, Lithuanian, or Polish. See the **About Entries in the Registers of Lithuanian RCC's** section of the article found at: <https://www.lithuaniancatholicancestorsearch.com/lithuania-rc-parish-registers--in-the-lithuanian-archives-and-online-.html> for information about the various languages records may be in.

PRACTICE

With the help of the instructions above, find the spelling of the parish needed to complete a search and then you will search the database to find applicable records.

For this activity, identify the **marriage records** in the parish of **Jurbarkas** for **1840**.

- Look at the table with the genitive changes above and identify the genitive spelling of the parish. It is Jurbarko.
- Next, open up the list of parish records that are included in ePaveldas by going to this URL: <https://paneveziokrastas.pavb.lt/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Romos-katalik%C5%B3-ba%C5%BEny%C4%8Di%C5%B3-kuri%C5%B3-skaitmenintos-metrik%C5%B3-akt%C5%B3-knygos-paskelbtos-portale-www.epaveldas.lt-s%C4%85ra%C5%A1as.pdf>
- Scroll alphabetically through the list until you find the parish of Jurbarkas (Jurbarko).
- While scrolling, you will come across this entry:

38.	Jurbarko Švč. Trejybės Romos katalikų bažnyčia	1802–1940	669, 1407	20	3616
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Source: <https://paneveziokrastas.pavb.lt/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Romos-katalik%C5%B3-ba%C5%BEny%C4%8Di%C5%B3-kuri%C5%B3-skaitmenintos-metrik%C5%B3-akt%C5%B3-knygos-paskelbtos-portale-www.epaveldas.lt-s%C4%85ra%C5%A1as.pdf> accessed 5 April 2022.

This is the parish you are looking for. From this entry we see that the Roman Catholic records are available for this parish for the years 1802-1940.

- With this information we can now perform the search. Go to the URL: <http://www.epaveldas.lt/>
- If the website is in Lithuanian, in the upper right corner of the website click "EN" to go to the English version. If you see "LT", the website has defaulted to the English version.

- On the top left side of the screen, click “Search”.
- In the search box, type “Jurbarko RKB”, then click the blue magnifying glass symbol to search.
- Scroll through the list of results until you find the one titled “Jurbarko RKB santuokos metrikų knyga. 1835--1848 m”. Click on the entry.
- You are now looking at the title page of the digitized record. Go to image 33 by using the arrows or typing in the image number. You should see the year 1840 on the top of the right page in the image.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.